

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** 04/17/2012  
**POSITION:** Oppose

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 1201  
**AUTHOR:** De Leon, Kevin

### **BILL SUMMARY:** Los Angeles River.

This bill would create the Los Angeles River Interagency Access Council, of specified composition from federal, state, and local governments, to develop and administer public access and safety policies for the Los Angeles River, with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to be the chairperson. It would also require the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to provide for public use of the waterways under the District's control when consistent with flood control and water conservation.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

The Nature Resources Agency, State Lands Commission, and the California Environmental Protection Agency indicate that the cost of this bill would be minor and absorbable.

The cost for the Los Angeles Flood County Flood Control District to provide for public use of waterways is unknown but potentially significant. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this bill results in state-mandated local costs, it could result in additional General Fund costs.

### **COMMENTS**

We are opposed to the bill because it is inconsistent with the Administration's proposal for reorganization of state government, and the requirement that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District provide for public use of its waterways could result in a state-reimbursable mandate.

The 2012-13 Governor's Budget proposes to reorganize state government to eliminate and consolidate agencies, departments, and programs; eliminating unnecessary boards, commissions, and advisory groups; changing the budget process to increase efficiency and focus on accomplishing program goals; permanently eliminating surplus positions; and implementing additional efficiencies. The bill would create another regional council in the state government at a time when the Administration proposes to eliminate unnecessary state entities to make the state more efficient.

The Los Angeles River is 51 miles long and flows through 13 cities in total and is entirely contained within the County of Los Angeles. The river is now almost entirely lined in concrete. Particularly along the lower part of the river, industrial activity and railyards are immediately adjacent to the river and effectively isolate it from the surrounding communities. Revitalization and promotion of the re-integration of the river and its tributaries into the adjacent neighborhoods began in the mid-to-late 1980s and followed by various actions to achieve a better river environment in the Los Angeles Basin. In 1996, the County of Los Angeles released the Los Angeles River Master Plan, and in 2007, the City of Los Angeles released the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. It appears that local governments already have plans in place to address the issues along the Los Angeles River.

According to the author's office the proposed council would ensure open and accessible areas of the Los Angeles River are identified for recreational purposes. The author's office also indicates that this proposal

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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
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